Pakistan's efforts to get support of European Union on Kashmir

1985. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Pak wooing European Union on Kashmir" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 21st February, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has succeeded in getting some members of European Parliament to press for special hearing on Kashmir in April, 2002; and

(c) if so, what steps have been activated by Government to counter the Pakistani move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Some members of the European Parliament had proposed a hearing on Jammu & Kashmir. This proposal was not accepted. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament have decided on an exchange of views instead of a hearing, although the date and final theme are still undecided.

(c) The Government of India and our concerned missions in EU countries are in constant touch with the concerned Members of the European Parliament to sensitise them on the issues concerned, including the problem of cross border terrorism.

Bringing back Indians detained in Ukraine

1986. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 110 Punjabi youths were detained recently in the capital of Ukraine in whose cases Indian travel agents had lured them with promises of jobs and a better lifestyle in the European countries;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to bring them back; and

(c) what punitive action is being taken against the erring travel agents?